

# The Daily Astorian.

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## QUAINT FOLK ON THE PLAINS

### Russo-German Colonies in Kansas

Within the past five or six years there have been moving across the Mississippi, forming new settlements on the western plains, numerous small colonies of German peasants from Russia. These people, in their ways of living, in dress and manners and character, are so different from any immigrants to be seen in the eastern states that a view of them is a new and positive point in the always changing panorama of American life. About one hundred years ago the Empress Catherine collected these people from various parts of Germany and settled them in small farming colonies in the region of the Volga. In building their Russian homes they followed the nucleus plan common among the small farmers of Europe, clustering their houses closely in little towns, each with its church and school, and its common pasture. The plough lands stretched out for miles from the towns, divided into parcels of various sizes among the farmers. By this arrangement, much time and labor are lost in going to and from the tillage. Sometimes a farmer has to haul his harvest forty miles to his barns and store-houses, which are all in the town beside the houses. In return they have a more social life than would be possible if the houses were isolated. They prefer the life of the bee, reporting daily to a populous hive, to that of the solitary hawk, which cares only for its own nest. Their common pasture, to which one herd boy daily drives the gathered cattle of the whole colony, is a saving of labor and of fencing, which offsets in part the loss from the distance of tillage. Among the inducements to settle in Russia, the colonists were exempted from army service for a period of years which is just now expiring, and the same period limits their freedom of emigration. It is on this account that they have left their homes in such large numbers, and since their object was to escape the draft, it is natural that they should seek their new fortunes in America. Here, in Kansas and Minnesota, and perhaps in other states and territories, they have already built numerous colonies. The homestead laws have so far changed their way of living as to compel them to build houses on their separate farms, but they carry out the old plan by making town houses also, gathered in close neighborhood about the church. These are their winter homes and their resorts on Sundays and their many holidays, and while the able-bodied men and women and larger children are busy on the farms, the grandmothers keep house in town for the very old men and the young school children.

There are doubtless many marked points of difference between the several colonies of German Russians, for they went to Russia from different parts of Germany, forming separate colonies of Catholics, Mennonites and Lutherans. The Colonies in Ellis county, Kansas, are Catholic. The largest of these is Herzog, standing less than a mile from the Victoria station of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. The town, conspicuous on the brown and treeless prairie, gives at a little distance a general tint of creamy white, monotonous, but not unpleasant. This is the color alike of the few stone buildings and of the fifty or sixty sod houses and pens and stables appended. The sod houses are of one story, long and low, smeared with clay and plastered without

and within. The few stone houses are made of the beautiful light-colored limestone, abundant in this region, and some of them show curious carving of window caps and other simple decoration. Here and there a frame house stands high above its neighbors, boasting its superiority by a finely perforated and scalloped cornice, suggestive of baskins and the rich edgings of petticoats. The village store is brilliant with painted decoration, strange in color and form. A neat stone church, with a good house for the priest adjoining, stands in the center, and is undisturbed head of the town—indeed its chief excuse for existence. A curious fashion of fencing with a sort of basket work, woven of thick saplings, adds to the foreign look of the place. Two or three wells supply all the houses, and the constant carrying of water helps to keep up the social element even in the most quiet times. A stranger walking into Herzog on a Sunday, when all are on hand for church and dressed in their brightest colors, would be startled by the ancient look of things. Men and women, girls and boys, all seem to have dropped out of some former century. Women and girls and small children shine in striking combinations of red and blue and green, grown boys wear loose blouses of black or blue, and their fathers are solemnly respectable in black frock coats, which, from waist up, fit tight as a bodice, the long skirts gathered at the belt and hanging loose and ample. The caps of the men and boys are all alike, broad at the top, gathered to a band, and with a visor. The hair is brushed back straight over the head and cut off with one merciless chop on a level with the middle of the ears. The girls and women cover their heads closely with kerchiefs, varying in color, but usually brilliant with red. The faces of the men, especially when observed in church, have a strangely ancient look of superstitious solemnity, which I have seen only in old German or Finnish pictures. It is likely that the sojourn in Russia, where they live in isolation from the advance of German life, and had little intercourse with their Russian neighbors, has helped to keep up the old look of their faces and dress.

The housekeeping of the Herzog people deserves attention for its economy. An important part in the house-building is the making of the oven. This, built of domestic clay bricks, smeared and plastered neatly like the walls of the house, stands between the living rooms and an outer ante-room or vestibule. The bread and other edibles enter the oven from the living room. The fuel goes in from the vestibule by another opening, leaving the large room free from litter; an important point, when it is seen what the fuel is. No costly coal exhausts the Russian's purse, nor does he seek the scanty growth of stunted wood along the creeks. His fuel is of the waste products of the farm, and is of two sorts. The first and best is the dried dung of cattle and buffalo, gathered from the prairie by industrious girls, who go about like rag-pickers with sacks on their backs, carrying home their loads to heap the growing store. This is a labor always ready, a sort of out-door knitting work, for days when farm labor is slack. The other cheap fuel is refuse straw and tough stems of hay, rejected by the cattle, dry cornstalks and what-ever rubbish gathers from the year's farming. Even with this light material the small tight

houses are abundantly warmed by their clay ovens. It makes more work in feeding the fire, but boys and girls are plenty and old women abound. The houses are kept neat and well scrubbed, though the same cannot be said of the persons of their owners. The chief article of food is wheat bread, made generally of inferior flour, the best wheat being sold and the worst kept for home use. But the distinctive point in their diet is the great use which the Russians make of the watermelon. This abundant product of the plains, thriving when corn withers and potatoes fade away, a luscious refreshment to the thirsty harvester or cowboy, is to the Russians a stand-by and support. Not only is it a chief part of his food in its season. It is packed away in cool cellars and kept fresh long after its natural time is past. It is pickled or soured in barrels for still later use. Syrup is made from its thin juice, and the seeds are saved and dried, to take the place of peanuts and candy.

The careful economy in household expenditure does not prevent a wise readiness to spend money for costly labor-saving machinery when such outlay is advantageous. The Russian farmer is quick to see the merit of harvesters and sulky ploughs. His horses are well fed and as good as his purse allows, but the harness maker gets little of his money, for the Russian fits out his horse from the cast-off clothing of his cattle, adorning the several straps of the harness with nicely cut scallops and other devices. Men and women take nearly equal shares in the labor of the farm. One old man who lived near me and who carried on one of the largest farms, did nearly all his work by the hands of a strong posse of daughters. His one son acts as overseer, to regulate the efficient application of the abundant power. Happy faces had these mistresses of the plough and stable, and the heavy toil that would crush the spirit of other women only hardened their sturdy limbs and filled their frames with the delight of bodily force. "Fram, he work too" said a young and penniless Russian, defending the prudence of his intended marriage.

A sort of patriarchal system is seen in their family life. When a boy marries, during his father's life, he takes his young wife home as a new recruit for the service of his father's farm. Sons and maiden daughters, sons' wives and children all work for the old man as long as he lives and is able to manage his affairs. Even when a married son goes away from home to work on the railroad or in the mines, he is expected to send to his father the chief part of his earnings. But this patriarchal plan is one of the first things to be affected and altered by American example. Already young Russians are occasionally setting up for themselves with an unflinching independence which would not have been tolerated in their former homes.

**Oleomargarine**

The following is a condensed account of the process by which oleomargarine is made. The fat by which the intestines of cattle is covered and the caul are the only parts that should be used. This, after becoming entirely cold, is thoroughly washed in water two or three times to rid it completely of impurities, after which it is cut into small pieces, making a kind of pulp. This is pressed through a sieve to render the pulp of less consistency. It is then melted at

a low temperature and stirred. The clear fat or oil is then run off into vats, the coarsest part remaining in the melting pots. From the vats the oil is taken to a cooling room where in metal-lined vessels at a temperature of about 85 degrees it assumes a granulated form. This is then submitted to a powerful pressure by which the oil is separated and run off into a tank. The oil next goes to the charming room, where it is mixed with one-fifth milk, and churned warm about half or three-quarters of an hour. Then it goes through a mixing machine, which it leaves uniform in color and texture. After being salted the manufacture is completed.

**For Sale.**

Having other business that demands my attention I offer for sale my chop house, situated in this city.

J. M. FROSTMAN.

**Not Lost.**

Fifty or sixty fathoms, 18 meshes deep, of No. 12 Scotch twine was lost on the night of May 3d; was caught on a snag in the middle channel. The coils are marked "C. C. Co." Return to E. G. Atwood.

**Take Notice.**

On after this date an additional 10 cents per cord will be charged on all orders for sawed wood not accompanied by the cash, at Gray's wood yard, July 1st, 1882.

**To Families and Housekeepers.**

I have opened a large stock of furniture and bedding on the corner of Main and Squemoqua streets, and will sell at San Francisco prices. You will save money by buying of me.

MARTIN OLSEN.

**Treat Your Teeth**

Rather than have them pulled, let your dentist save all he can. You desire to have trouble, because you have not used Sotozov. When properly fixed, then rub on the Sotozov, and keep them all right for time to come.

**Soothe the Irritated**

A few drops of SOZODONT mixed with water, and placed in the mouth of the afflicted will refresh him. It soothes what else would be dry and uncomfortable, and gives infinite pleasure, and induces appetite. No nurse should neglect SOZODONT.

**Not Found.**

Not picked up, about forty feet marked "K. K." on the lead line "No. 12." The owner can have it by applying at Theo. Beck's cigar store and paying charges. It was picked up between Smith's point and the black buoy.

JAS. PATTISON.

**Will Remove.**

Mr. C. H. Cooper of the L. X. L. store has leased the entire lower floor of the Knights of Pythias building and will remove his stock on or about the first of May. Being overstocked and wishing to reduce his present stock he will offer a special sale, and will accept a discount to all cash customers buying goods to amount of \$10 or over. Remember that in purchasing this sale that the discount will be handed back in cash.

**Buy the Weekly.**

THE WEEKLY ASTORIAN for this week is full of just such information and news of the country as your friends in the east want to see. It has very few advertisements, and is, check to the use of the native remedy, the Peruvian bark, or, as it was called in the language of the country, "Quinquina." Grateful for her recovery, on her return to Europe in 1822, she introduced the remedy in Spain, where it was known under various names, until Linnaeus called it Cinchona, in honor of the lady who had brought them that which was more precious than the gold of the Incas. To this day, after a lapse of two hundred and fifty years, science has given us nothing to take its place. It effectively cures a morbid appetite for stimulants by restoring the natural tone of the stomach. It cures excessive loss of liquor as it does a fever, and destroys both alike. The powerful tonic virtue of the Cinchona is preserved in the Peruvian Bitters, which are as effective against malarial fever to-day as they were in the days of the old Spanish Viceroys. We guarantee the ingredients of these bitters to be absolutely pure, and of the best known quality. A trial will satisfy you that this is the best bitter in the world. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and we willingly abide this test. For sale by all druggists, grocers and liquor dealers. Order of L. Loeb & Co., agents for Astoria.

**Furnished Rooms to Let**

At Mrs. Munson's lodging house.

**Found.**

A cork line, about 150 fathoms, on May 1st, at the Cape, near Kinney's net-rails.

SAMUEL ERICHSEN.

**Notice.**

Ice cream, ice cream, at Roscoe's refreshment saloon, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Occident block.

**Don't Die in the House.**

Use Druggists for "Rough on Rats." It chases out rats, mice, bedbugs, fleas, worms, flies, ants, insects, the por-hox.

**Notice.**

The Astoria Shirt and Oil Clothing Factory, has moved next house to O'Brien's Hotel. Persons wishing good oil clothing to keep their dry will please call.

**Shiny Men.**

Wells Health Renewer. Absolute cure for nervous debility and weakness of the generative functions. \$1, at druggists. Oregon Depot, DAVIS & CO., Portland, Or.

**Attention Fishermen.**

I at Nicholas's Estate of Glend all for sale or shipped hands, for sale by Joe G. Chambers. Tide-tides free to all. For the finest baits in the city go to the Orient bathing rooms, opposite Holden's and on-stone.

JOE G. CHAMBERS, Prop.

**The Weekly Astorian**

Is a pamphlet sheet, double the size of the Daily. It is just the paper for the fire-side, containing in addition to the current news, choice miscellany, agricultural matter, market reports, etc. It is furnished to single subscribers at 25 cents per year in advance.

Have Wistar's balsam of wild cherry always on hand. It cures coughs, colds, bronchitis, whooping cough, croup, influenza, consumption, and all throat and lung complaints. Prevents and cures a cold.

HALL'S VEGETABLE SICILIAN HAIR RESTORER is a scientific combination of some of the most powerful restorative agents in the vegetable kingdom. It restores gray hair to its original color. It makes the scalp white and clean. It cures dandruff and humors, and falling-out of the hair. It furnishes the nutritive principle by which the hair is nourished and supported. It makes the hair thick, soft and glossy, and is unsurpassed as a hair dressing. It is the most economical preparation ever offered to the public, as its effects remain a long time, making only an occasional application necessary. It is recommended and used by eminent medical men, and is officially endorsed by the State Assayer of Massachusetts. The popularity of Hair Restorer has increased with the test of many years, both in this country and in foreign lands, and it is now known and used in all the civilized countries of the world.

FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS.

A cough, cold or sore throat should be stopped. Neglect frequently results in an incurable lung disease or consumption. Brown's Bronchial Troches do not disperse the stomach like cough syrups and balsams, but act directly on the inflamed parts, allaying irritation, give relief in asthma, bronchitis, coughs, catarrh and the throat troubles which spruce and pebble waters are subject to. For thirty years Brown's bronchial troches have been recommended by physicians, and always give perfect satisfaction. Having been tested by sick and convalescent people nearly an entire generation, they have attained well-merited rank among the few staple remedies of the age. Sold at 25 cents a box everywhere.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**S. ARNDT & FERCHEN.**  
ASTORIA - OREGON.

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**SHOP**  
AND  
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All kinds of

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**STEAMBOAT WORK**

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**GENERAL MACHINISTS AND  
BOILER MAKERS.**

**LAND & MARINE ENGINES**

Boiler Work, Steamboat Work,  
and Cannery Work a specialty.

**CASTINGS.**

Of all Descriptions made to Order  
at Short Notice.

A. D. WASS, President,  
J. G. HESTER, Secretary,  
L. W. CASE, Treasurer,  
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**B. B. FRANKLIN,**  
**UNDERTAKER,**

Corner Cass and Squemoqua streets.  
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AND  
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UNDERTAKERS GOODS.

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**CLOAKS** As I am not able  
at present to  
leave my store,  
I shall send to you DRESSES and BOWLS  
at prices that CANNOT BE DUPLICATED  
in America, from \$10 upwards, with privilege  
of examining at Wells-Parko, and if not  
satisfied I pay charges BOTH ways. Ad-  
dress, with size.

**H. B. LITT,**  
Corner Third and Alder Streets,  
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**\$67,000,000 CAPITAL.**  
LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND  
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NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE OF LONDON AND  
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FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Representing a capital of \$67,000,000.  
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General storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms. Foot of Benton street, Astoria, Oregon.

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Diseases of the Throat a Specialty.  
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All kinds of Oak Lumber, Glass, Boat Ma-  
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Turning and Bracket Work  
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FIRST CLASS WORK A SPECIALTY.

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Plumbers and Steam Fitters  
Goods and Tools,  
SHEET LEAD STRIP LEAD  
SHEET IRON TIN AND COPPER.  
Cannery and Fishermens Supplies  
Stoves, Tin Ware and House  
Furnishing Goods.  
JOBING IN SHEET IRON, TIN, COP-  
PER PLUMBING AND STEAM FITTING  
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None but first class workmen employed.  
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ALSO A FINE  
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